



Microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ bi-functional material for H_2 production from sorption enhanced water gas shift

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ABSTRACT

Herein, a hollow microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ bi-functional material was prepared by the bio-template method and used for H_2 production from sorption enhanced water gas shift (SEWGS). The microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ exhibits excellent CO_2 capture and H_2 production performance in SEWGS/regeneration cycles. The stable hollow microtubular structure improves available adsorption and catalytic sites in Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ for CO_2 capture and H_2 production. Mn addition improves CO_2 affinity capacity of the microtubular material. The Fe-Mn interaction increases redox ability of $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$, which promotes CO conversion. Moreover, the formed $\text{Ca}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_5$ and Ca_2MnO_4 both increase oxygen vacancies to promote catalytic activity of the microtubular material for WGS and its CO_2 capture capacity. The CO conversions for the microtubular material with the Fe/Mn/Al/Ca molar ratio = 10/2/10/100 are 98.7% and 94.0% after 20 cycles under the mild and severe calcination conditions, respectively. The hollow microtubular bi-functional material shows good prospect for efficient H_2 production from SEWGS.

1. Introduction

Hydrogen is a promising energy carrier to produce, transport and store energy due to its high heating value, rich resources and environmental benefit [1,2]. At present, the majority of H_2 in the industrial applications comes from fossil fuels [3,4]. Water gas shift (WGS) reaction (as shown in Eq. (1)) is extensively used to reduce the CO concentration and upgrade the H_2 purity in various H_2 production processes, including steam methane reforming, steam reforming of glycerin, and steam gasification of biomass and coal, etc. [5]. Moreover, the WGS reaction is also used to convert CO in the by-product gases including coke oven gas and blast furnace gas from steel production to produce H_2 [6]. Consequently, the resource utilization of steelmaking off-gas is achieved.



There are limitations in the WGS reaction, including thermodynamic limitations at high temperature and slow kinetics at low temperature [7, 8]. These restrictions can be weakened via sorption enhanced water gas

shift (SEWGS) reaction conducted by in-situ removal of CO_2 in the WGS process [9,10]. The removal of CO_2 shifts the forward WGS reaction based on the Le Chatelier principle to produce more H_2 [11]. The SEWGS reaction can be operated at the mediate-temperature (200–400 °C) and the high-temperature (400–650 °C), depending on the working temperatures of various CO_2 sorbents [12–14]. MgO , Li-based sorbents and hydrotalcite-like sorbents can be employed as the mediate-temperature sorbents (200–400 °C) for SEWGS reaction. However, compared with those of the high-temperature sorbents (400–650 °C), the relatively lower CO_2 sorption capacities as well as the lower sorption and regeneration rates of the mediate-temperature sorbents limit their practical applications [15]. Calcium looping (CaL), i.e., the carbonation/calcination cycles of CaO-based sorbents (as shown in Eq. (2)), is a promising high-temperature CO_2 capture technology [16]. Although the regeneration of CaO at high calcination temperatures requires the high energy consumption, the advantages of using CaO sorbents for SEWGS are prominent, which include the relatively high CO_2 capture capacity and fast carbonation kinetics of CaO at 600–700 °C, as well as the large abundance of natural low-cost precursors [15,17]. Therefore, CaO

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sorbents are appropriate for the high-temperature SEWGS process, as illustrated in Fig. 1 [18–20]. CO₂ generated from the WGS reaction reacts with CaO to form CaCO₃ and promote CO conversion (as shown in Eq. (3)) [21,22]. The regeneration of CaO is then performed under oxy-fuel combustion, and high-purity CO₂ is obtained for storage and utilization [23].



The CO₂ capture capacity of CaO is crucial for H₂ production in the SEWGS process. However, CaO is prone to severe sintering after multiple CaL cycles, especially under the severe calcination condition at high temperature under high CO₂ concentration, which results in a rapid decline in the CO₂ capture capacity [24,25]. Therefore, the H₂ production performance in the SEWGS process using CaL also rapidly decreases with the number of cycles [26]. The additives with high Tammann-temperature such as MgO [27], TiO₂ [28], ZrO₂ [29] and Al₂O₃ [30], etc. have been used to mitigate the sintering of CaO. The incorporation of calcium aluminates (e.g. Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃) formed by the reaction of CaO and Al₂O₃ in the preparation process has been reported to efficiently improve the cyclic stability of CaO in the multiple CaL cycles [31,32].

Moreover, the modification of the pore structure of CaO-based sorbent can also efficiently improve its CO₂ capture performance in CaL cycles [33,34]. Highly porous morphologies are beneficial to mitigate the contact and agglomeration of CaO particles after multiple CaL cycles [35]. Moreover, the large surface area and pore volume of the CaO-based sorbent promote the solid-gas reaction between CaO and CO₂ [36,37]. Various porous CaO-based sorbents with hollow spherical and tubular structures have been prepared for CO₂ capture in CaL cycles [38,39]. The outer and inner surfaces of these hollow CaO-based sorbents are exposed for gas diffusion, promoting gas-solid contact between CO₂ and CaO. Moreover, the hollow structures provide sufficient void space, which can mitigate the effect of volumetric change of CaO/CaCO₃ during multiple CaL cycles [40]. Nanosized and micro-sized CaO sorbents with porous structures have been reported for CO₂ capture [41–43]. The applications of the porous hollow CaO-based materials in CaL processes in recent years are summarized in Table 1. In particular, biological materials with the unique hollow tubular morphology have been directly utilized as the bio-templates to prepare the microtubular CaO-based materials to avoid the complicated preparation of the template [44,45]. The applications of the hollow microtubular CaO-based materials for CO₂ capture and CaL heat storage have been investigated. However, the application for sorption enhanced H₂ production in SEWGS process has been rarely reported.

The use of catalysts to promote CO conversion is another effective approach for SEWGS [23]. In this regard, the combination of active catalysts with CO₂ sorbents to prepare the bi-functional materials is crucial [47–49]. Meng et al. [50] developed a bi-functional material for H₂ production in SEWGS process at 600 °C, which consisted of the CaO core and Al₂O₃-supported Ni catalyst shell. It was demonstrated that more than 97% CO was converted to H₂. Kim et al. [19] prepared the Ni nanoparticles with hollow CaO-based spheres stabilized by a thin layer of Al₂O₃ through an atomic layer deposition method, which showed

effective and stable H₂ production performance over several SEWGS/regeneration cycles. However, Ni is toxic and is found to catalyze the conversion of CO to CH₄ by the methanation reaction (as shown in Eq. (4)) [50]. CH₄ is an undesirable by-product in the WGS process, which will reduce the concentration of H₂. The mixtures of Fe₂O₃ and Cr₂O₃ are typically used as the high-temperature catalysts in the industrial WGS processes [51]. However, the chromium component is toxic and carcinogenic [52]. Therefore, it is necessary to develop the alternative chromium-free Fe-based catalyst for WGS reaction [53]. Fe/CaO material has been proposed for sorption enhanced H₂ production processes [54,55]. Zamboni et al. [56] reported that both the presence of the Fe₂O₃ phase and the formation of the Ca₂Fe₂O₅ phase between iron and calcium exhibited the positive catalytic effect on the WGS reaction. Furthermore, transition metal modification using Cu, Co, Ce, Ni and Mn, etc., has been investigated to promote the activity and thermal stability of Fe-based catalysts in the high-temperature WGS reaction [57–59]. However, the effect of Mn on the Fe/CaO bi-functional materials for SEWGS reaction has not been reported.



In this work, we aimed to fabricate a porous material with high CO₂ capture and active catalytic performance as well as high cyclic stability for promoting H₂ production in SEWGS. We proposed the novel application of hollow microtubular bi-functional materials in SEWGS process. A novel hollow microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ was fabricated by the bio-template method, containing CaO sorbent, Fe-based catalyst, Mn promoter and Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ stabilizer. The CO₂ capture capacity and H₂ production performance in the SEWGS process using the hollow microtubular bi-functional materials were investigated. The microstructural evolution of the hollow microtubular bi-functional material in the SEWGS/regeneration cycles was determined. The effect of Mn addition on H₂ production performance and CO₂ capture using hollow microtubular Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ in the cyclic SEWGS process was studied. This work is expected to achieve efficient and stable simultaneous H₂ production/CO₂ capture from SEWGS cycles.

2. Experimental

2.1. Raw materials

Absorbent paper as a representative of bio-template was used. Ca (C₂H₃O₂)₂·H₂O (≥99.0 wt%, Shanghai Aladdin Industrial Co., Ltd., China), Al(NO₃)₃·9 H₂O (≥99.0 wt%, Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd., China), Fe(NO₃)₃·9 H₂O (≥99.9 wt%, Shanghai Aladdin Industrial Co., Ltd., China) and Mn(C₂H₃O₂)₂·4 H₂O (≥99.0 wt%, Shanghai Aladdin Industrial Co., Ltd., China) were used as calcium, aluminum, iron and manganese precursors, respectively. Moreover, Ni (C₂H₃O₂)₂·4 H₂O (≥99.0 wt%, Shanghai Macklin Biochemical Co., Ltd., China) was used as nickel precursor.

2.2. Preparation of hollow microtubular bi-functional materials

The synthesis schematic of the hollow microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ is illustrated in Fig. 2. Firstly, 10 g of Ca (C₂H₃O₂)₂·H₂O and calculated amounts of Al(NO₃)₃·9 H₂O, Fe(NO₃)₃·9 H₂O and Mn(C₂H₃O₂)₂·4 H₂O were added to 100 mL of deionized water according to the specific molar ratio of Ca/Al/Fe/Mn to obtain a homogeneous mixed solution. Subsequently, a stack of absorbent paper was fully impregnated in the mixed solution for 24 h. Next, the wet paper was sequentially dried at 80 °C for 6 h and then combusted in air at 750 °C for 2 h to remove the template. Thus, the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ bi-functional materials were obtained. These materials were denoted as Fe_xMn_yAl_zCaO-T, where x, y and z represent the molar ratios of Ca:Fe, Ca:Mn and Ca:Al are 100:x, 100:y and 100:z, respectively, and T means the template method. Moreover,

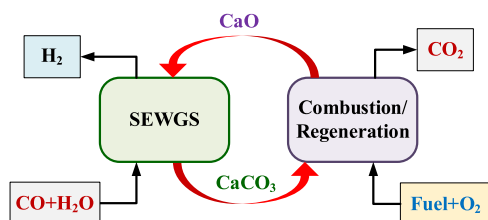


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of H₂ production from SEWGS process using CaL.

Table 1
Composition and performance of CaO-based materials in different processes based on CaL.

Material	Morphology	Preparation method	Application	Conditions (sorption/regeneration)	Cycles	Sorption capacity (g-CO ₂ /g-sorbent)	Ref
Ni-CaO-Ca ₃ Al ₂ O ₆	hollow nano-sphere	hydrothermal	SEWGS	650 °C, 20% CO ₂ , 1 bar /900 °C, 55% CO ₂ , 1 bar	1/30	0.54/0.43	[19]
CaO-Ca ₁₂ Al ₁₄ O ₃₃	hollow micro-sphere	carbon sphere gel-template	CO ₂ capture	750 °C, 40% CO ₂ , 1 bar /750 °C, 100% N ₂ , 1 bar	1/30	0.53/0.56	[39]
CaO	hollow micro-sphere	hydrothermal	CO ₂ capture	650 °C, 15% CO ₂ , 1 bar /850 °C, 100% N ₂ , 1 bar	15	0.275	[33]
CaO-Ca ₉ Al ₆ O ₁₈	hollow multishelled micro-sphere	hydrothermal	CO ₂ capture	650 °C, 12% CO ₂ , 1 bar /900 °C, 100% CO ₂ , 1 bar	30	0.55	[40]
Ni-CaO-MgO	hollow micro-sphere	hydrothermal	sorption-enhanced steam reforming of glycerol	550 °C, 10% CO ₂ , 1 bar /800 °C, 100% N ₂ , 1 bar	1/10	0.49/0.37	[43]
CaO-Ca ₁₂ Al ₁₄ O ₃₃	hollow micro-tube	bio-template	CO ₂ capture	700 °C, 15% CO ₂ , 1 bar /920 °C, 70% CO ₂ , 1 bar	1/30	0.59/0.33	[38]
CaO-Ca ₁₂ Al ₁₄ O ₃₃	hollow micro-tube	bio-template	CO ₂ capture	700 °C, 20% CO ₂ , 1 bar /920 °C, 70% CO ₂ , 1 bar	1/30	0.61/0.41	[44]
CaO-Ca ₁₂ Al ₁₄ O ₃₃	hollow micro-tube	bio-template	heat storage	850 °C, 100% CO ₂ , 13 bar /850 °C, 100% N ₂ , 1 bar	1/30	0.62/0.58	[46]
CeO ₂ -CaO-Ca ₁₂ Al ₁₄ O ₃₃	hollow micro-tube	bio-template	heat storage	850 °C, 100% CO ₂ , 13 bar /850 °C, 100% N ₂ , 1 bar	1/30	0.73/0.72	[46]

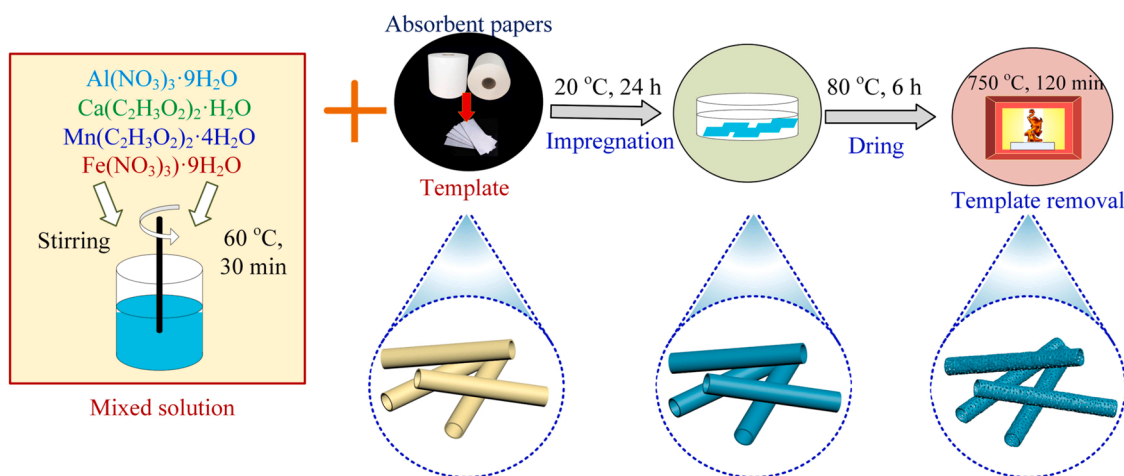


Fig. 2. Synthesis schematic of hollow microtubular bi-functional materials.

for the comparison, the microtubular monometallic Fe-promoted and Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ were prepared according to the above-mentioned procedure, which were denoted as Fe_xAl₂CaO-T and Mn_yAl₂CaO-T, respectively. In addition, the bi-functional materials by the wet-mixing method were also synthesized by the similar procedure in the absence of the absorbent paper template, which were denoted as Fe_xMn_yAl₂CaO, Fe_xAl₂CaO and Mn_yAl₂CaO. Fe catalyst, Fe/Mn catalyst and Ni catalyst were also prepared by the template method as above-mentioned, which were denoted as Fe-T, Fe_xMn_y-T and Ni-T, respectively.

2.3. Cyclic CO₂ capture and SEWGS tests

The cyclic carbonation/calcination tests of the bi-functional materials (500 mg) were carried out in a dual fixed-bed reactors system. The experimental procedure was reported in the literature [38]. The carbonation was conducted in 15 vol% CO₂/30 vol% steam/N₂ at 600 °C for 20 min. The calcination was conducted under the severe condition with 70 vol% CO₂/N₂ at 920 °C and the mild condition with pure CO₂ at 850 °C for 10 min, respectively. The CO₂ capture capacity of the sample was calculated as follows:

$$C_N = \frac{m_{\text{carb}, N} - m_{\text{cal}, N}}{m_0} \quad (5)$$

where N represents the number of the CaL cycles; C_N denotes the CO₂ capture capacity of the sample in the N th CaL cycle, g/g; $m_{\text{carb}, N}$ and $m_{\text{cal}, N}$ indicate the sample mass after the N th carbonation and calcination reactions, g, respectively; m_0 denotes the mass of the initial sample, g.

WGS and SEWGS reactions were performed in a vertical fixed-bed reactor, which is illustrated in Fig. 3. In a typical experiment, 1 g catalyst or bi-functional material was loaded on the quartz wool supported in a quartz tube. The flow rate of water was controlled by a syringe pump, and it was evaporated by a preheater kept at 130 °C to produce steam for the WGS and SEWGS reactions. The WGS and SEWGS reactions were performed at 400–700 °C. Prior to the test, the sample was heated from the room temperature to the desired temperature in Ar atmosphere at 10 °C/min. After reaching the stable temperature, a mixture of steam and CO swept by Ar at a total flow rate of 200 mL/min was introduced into the reactor to start the WGS/SEWGS reaction for 120 min. The concentration of CO was 4 vol%, and the corresponding volume ratios of steam to CO (S/C) were 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8, respectively. The product gas was cooled down by an ice-cooled bath where the condensable gas

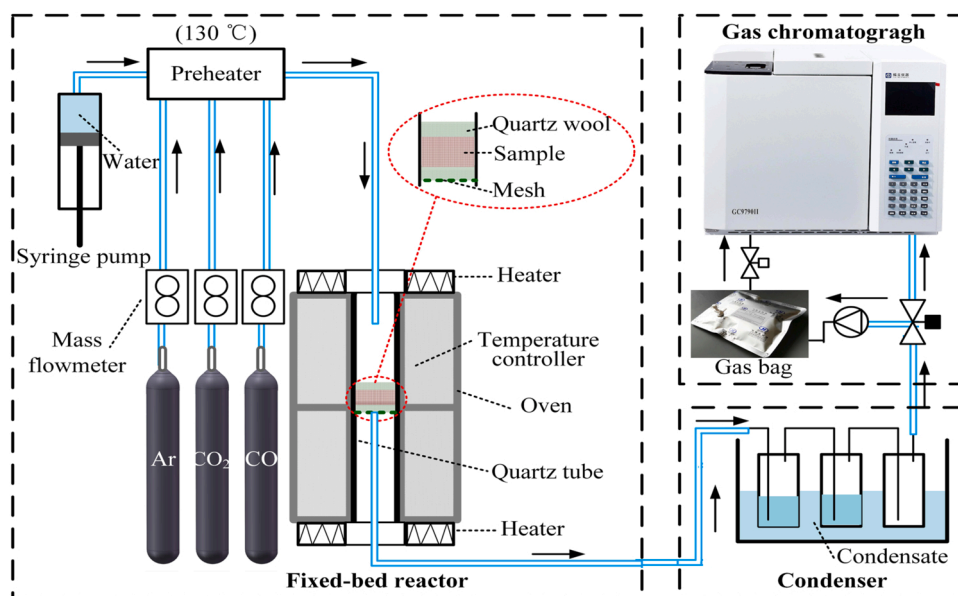


Fig. 3. Schematic diagram of a vertical fixed-bed SEWGS system.

(steam) was removed. Then the corresponding concentrations of CO, CO₂, H₂ and CH₄ in the product gas were measured on-line using a gas chromatograph (GC, 9790II, Fuli) equipped with a thermal conductivity detector (TCD). The data acquisition interval for GC was every 8 min. Moreover, the same groups of the experiments were repeated to collect the accumulated incondensable off-gas in the certain period by a gas bag. The average concentrations of CO, CO₂, H₂ and CH₄ in the product gas were also analyzed using GC. The cyclic SEWGS/regeneration tests were also performed in the vertical fixed-bed reactor. After a SEWGS reaction, the reactor was heated to the desired calcination temperature at 10 °C/min for the regeneration of CaO. The regeneration was conducted under the severe calcination condition (920 °C, 70 vol% CO₂/30 vol% Ar) and mild calcination condition (850 °C, 100 vol% Ar) for 30 min, respectively. Then, a SEWGS/regeneration cycle was completed. The reactor was then cooled down to the desired SEWGS temperature. The SEWGS/regeneration reactions were repeated for 20 cycles.

The relative CO, CO₂, H₂ and CH₄ concentrations in the product gas were calculated by Eq. (6):

$$V_i = \frac{v_i}{v_{\text{CO}} + v_{\text{CO}_2} + v_{\text{H}_2} + v_{\text{CH}_4}} \quad (6)$$

where i denotes the components in the off-gas during WGS/SEWGS reaction, such as CO, CO₂, H₂, or CH₄; V_i represents the relative concentrations of CO, CO₂, H₂ and CH₄ in the product gas on Ar-free and dry basis, respectively, %; v_i denotes the volume fractions of CO, CO₂, H₂ and CH₄ in the product gas, respectively, vol%. The average CO conversion and H₂ yield were calculated as follows:

$$X_{\text{CO}} = \frac{F_{\text{CO}, \text{in}} - F_{\text{CO}, \text{out}}}{F_{\text{CO}, \text{in}}} \quad (7)$$

$$Y_{\text{H}_2} = \frac{F_{\text{H}_2, \text{out}}}{F_{\text{CO}, \text{in}}} \quad (8)$$

$$F_{\text{CO}, \text{out}} = \frac{F_{\text{Ar}}}{1 - (v_{\text{CO}} + v_{\text{CO}_2} + v_{\text{H}_2} + v_{\text{CH}_4})} \cdot v_{\text{CO}} \quad (9)$$

$$F_{\text{H}_2, \text{out}} = \frac{F_{\text{Ar}}}{1 - (v_{\text{CO}} + v_{\text{CO}_2} + v_{\text{H}_2} + v_{\text{CH}_4})} \cdot v_{\text{H}_2} \quad (10)$$

where X_{CO} represents the average CO conversion during the WGS/

SEWGS reaction, %; Y_{H_2} is the average H₂ yield during the WGS/SEWGS reaction, %; $F_{\text{CO}, \text{in}}$ denotes the cumulative flow of CO in the gaseous input during the certain period, mL; $F_{\text{CO}, \text{out}}$ and $F_{\text{H}_2, \text{out}}$ are the cumulative flows of CO and H₂ in the gaseous output, which were calculated based on the Ar balance, mL, respectively; and F_{Ar} is the cumulative flow of input Ar, mL.

2.4. Characterizations

The crystallinities and chemical compositions of the materials were examined by X-ray diffraction (XRD, D/max-rB). The Scherrer equation and Bragg equation were used to calculate the mean crystallite size and lattice parameter, respectively. The elemental compositions and valence states of the samples were detected by a Thermo ESCALAB 250XI X-ray photoelectron spec-troscopy (XPS). CO₂ temperature-programmed desorption (CO₂-TPD), O₂ temperature-programmed desorption (O₂-TPD) and H₂-temperature-programmed reduction (H₂-TPR) were performed using an AutoChem II 2920 Micromeritics to analyze the basicity, oxygen species and reducibility of the materials, respectively. Electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectra was analyzed to determine the vacancies characteristics of the samples by a Bruker A300 spectrometer. The surface morphologies of the samples were characterized using a scanning electron microscope (SEM, JEOL JSM-7600 F). The elemental analysis on the surface of materials was performed using energy dispersive X-ray (EDX, Oxford INCA sight X). Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) images, high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) images, high angle annular dark field scanning transmission electron microscopy (HAADF-STEM) images and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopic (EDS) element mappings were recorded in a FEI Tecnai G2 F20 operated at 200 kV.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Morphology and phase composition of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted/CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃

Fig. 4(a) displays the XRD patterns of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Mn₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. The diffraction peaks corresponding to CaO and Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ are presented in the XRD patterns of these three bi-functional materials. The sharp diffraction peaks with high intensity confirm that CaO is the main product in the bi-functional materials.

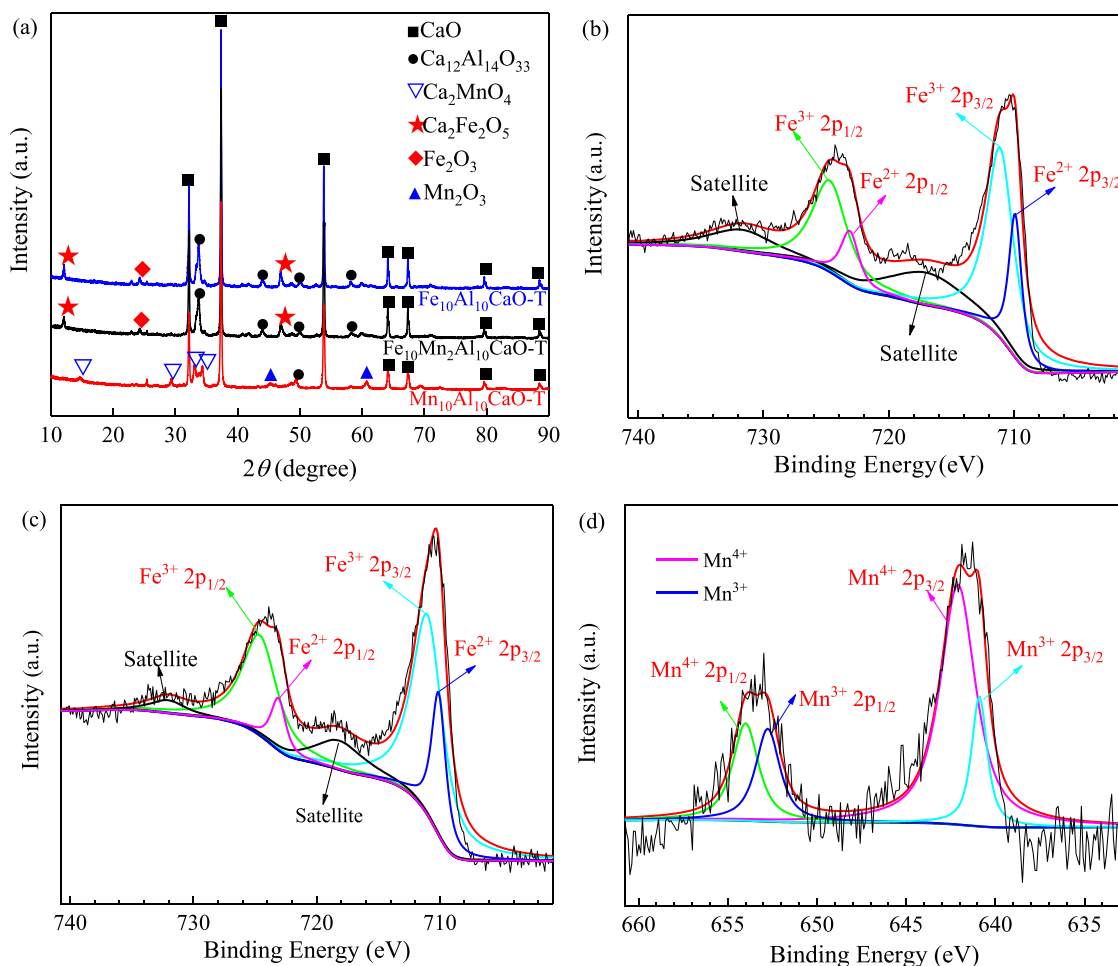


Fig. 4. XRD and XPS analysis of the bi-functional materials: (a) XRD patterns of Fe_xMn_yAl₁₀CaO-T, (b) XPS spectrum of Fe 2p of Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, (c) XPS spectrum of Fe 2p of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, (d) XPS spectrum of Mn 2p of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T.

Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ is a solid solution formed by the interaction of Al₂O₃ and CaO after removing the template at 750 °C. The characteristic peaks of Ca₂Fe₂O₅ and Fe₂O₃ are presented in the XRD patterns of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, suggesting the formation of different iron phases. Ca₂Fe₂O₅ and Fe₂O₃ both exhibit high catalytic activities for the WGS reaction [56]. The peaks of Ca₂MnO₄ and Mn₂O₃ are found in the XRD pattern of Mn₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. However, Mn is not detected in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T due to its low content. XPS analysis is used to analyze the valence states of the Fe and Mn in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T. The Fe 2p spectrum of Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T possesses four dominant peaks and two satellite peaks, as illustrated in Fig. 4(b). The peaks located at binding energies of 709.9 eV for Fe 2p_{3/2} and 723.1 eV for Fe 2p_{1/2} are ascribed to Fe²⁺, and the peaks at 711.1 eV for Fe 2p_{3/2} and 724.7 eV for Fe 2p_{1/2} correspond to Fe³⁺, respectively [60,61]. The existence of Fe³⁺ confirms the compositions of Ca₂Fe₂O₅ and Fe₂O₃ in Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. However, there is no sign of a composition containing Fe²⁺ in the XRD patterns, probably because of the low loading of Fe²⁺. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T also shows the characteristic peaks of Fe³⁺ and Fe²⁺, as exhibited in Fig. 4(c). Compared with the monometallic Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, the Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺ peaks in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T shift to the lower binding energies of 709.7 eV (2p_{3/2}) and 710.8 eV (2p_{3/2}), respectively. These changes suggest that the Fe-Mn interaction allows the electron transfer from Mn to Fe [62]. Furthermore, the Mn 2p peaks of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T indicate the existence of Mn⁴⁺/Mn³⁺, as shown in Fig. 4(d) [63,64]. This result indicates the formation of Ca₂MnO₄ and Mn₂O₃ in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, which are not observed in its XRD pattern. Therefore, Ca₂Fe₂O₅ and Fe₂O₃ phases are formed in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, and the doping of Mn

leads to the formation of Ca₂MnO₄ and Mn₂O₃. The average crystallite sizes and lattice parameters of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T calculated from the XRD results are listed in Table 2. The results indicate that the two samples have similar lattice parameters including *d*_{CaO} and *d*_{Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃}. However, the average crystallite sizes of CaO and Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ grains in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are smaller than those in Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, respectively, indicating the structural promotion effect of Mn addition.

The SEM images of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are exhibited in Fig. 5. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits a hollow tube-like morphology, as displayed in Fig. 5(a) and (b). Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T possesses a highly porous tube wall, as illustrated in Fig. 5(c) and (d). The widths of the tubes vary from several to tens of μm, and the thickness of the tube wall is smaller than 1 μm. The high porosity of the hollow microtubular structure exposes more adsorption and catalytic sites and reduces the resistance of gas diffusion, resulting in better gas-solid contact in the SEWGS reaction. The porous hollow structure is also expected to provide sufficient void

Table 2

Average crystallite sizes and lattice parameters of the bi-functional materials.

Samples	<i>D</i> _{CaO} ^a (nm)	<i>D</i> _{Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃} ^a (nm)	<i>d</i> _{CaO} ^b (nm)	<i>d</i> _{Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃} ^b (nm)
Fe ₁₀ Al ₁₀ CaO-T	24.6	24.5	0.2892	0.2776
Fe ₁₀ Mn ₂ Al ₁₀ CaO-T	21.1	18.4	0.2893	0.2773

^a Average crystallite size calculated by Scherrer equation.

^b Lattice parameter calculated by Bragg equation.

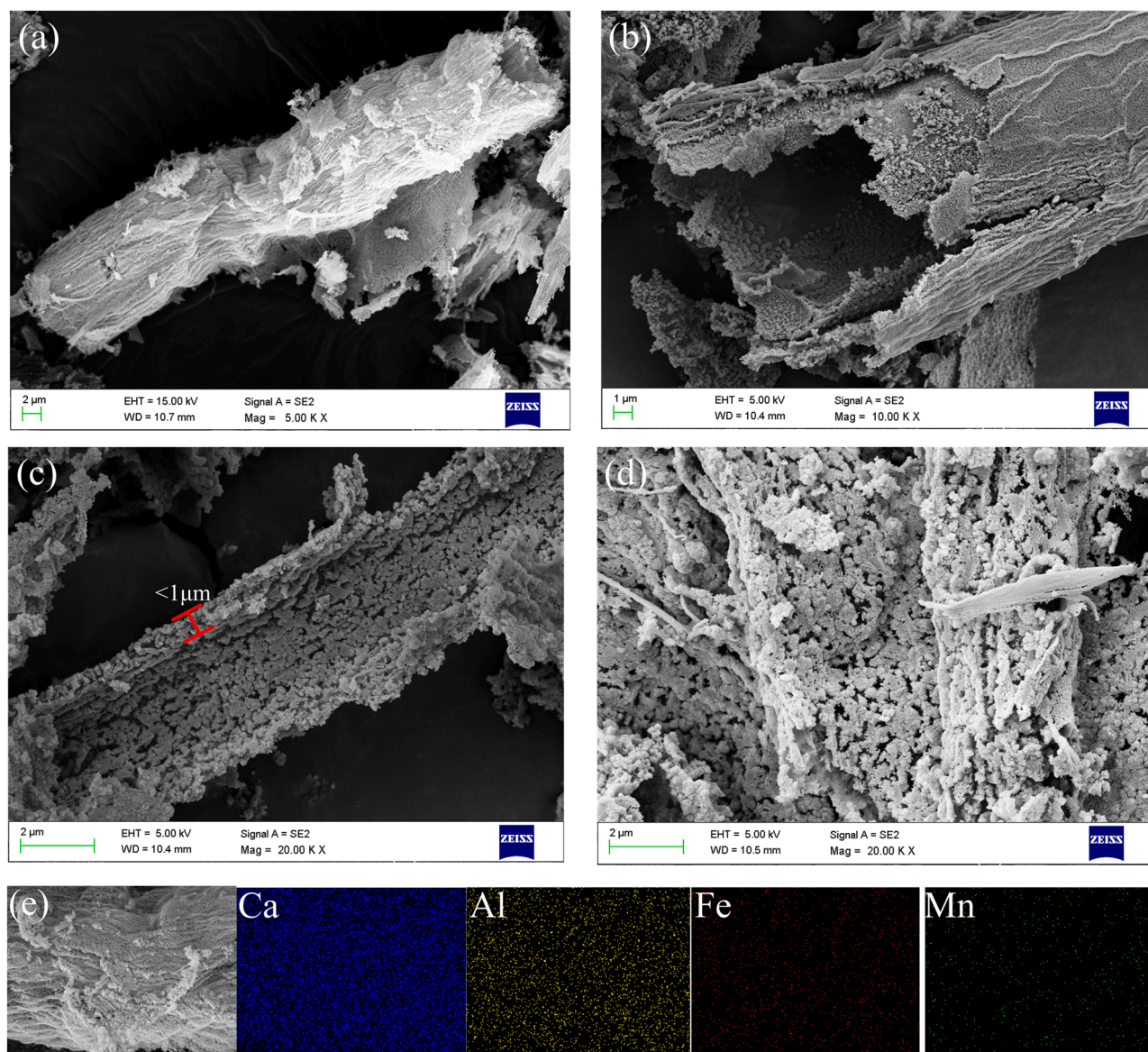


Fig. 5. SEM images of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T: (a) external view, (b) tube inlet, (c) sectional view, (d) tube surface, (e) SEM-EDX mapping.

space, which offsets the large volume changes of CaO/CaCO₃. The SEM-EDX mapping exhibits the uniform distributions of Ca, Al, Fe and Mn elements on the surface of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, as shown in Fig. 5(e).

The microstructure of Fe/Mn-promoted/CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ is further investigated on nanoscale, as shown in Fig. 6. TEM images and crystal size distribution of Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are demonstrated in Fig. 6(a) and (b), respectively. Compared with Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T comprises of the smaller nanosized crystals with the average size of 16.2 nm. The enlarged HRTEM image of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T shows obvious lattice fringes, as exhibited in Fig. 6(c). The lattice fringes of 0.272, 0.320, 0.279 and 0.251 nm are attributed to the (1 1 1) lattice plane of CaO, the (3 2 1) lattice plane of Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃, the (0 0 2) lattice plane of Ca₂Fe₂O₅ and the (1 1 0) lattice plane of Fe₂O₃, respectively [46,65,66]. The results are consistent with the XRD results. Moreover, the lattice fringes of 0.184 and 0.224 nm are attributed to the (2 2 0) lattice plane of Ca₂MnO₄ and the (4 1 1) lattice plane of Mn₂O₃, respectively [67,68]. The HAADF-STEM image and the EDS element mappings are shown in Fig. 6(d)-(i). The EDS mappings of Ca, Al, Fe and Mn elements possess almost the same distribution patterns, indicating the uniform distribution of Ca, Al, Fe and Mn components. This result indicates the formation of well-mixed sorbents, catalysts, stabilizers and

promoters on the nanoscale in the microtubular bi-functional material.

3.2. Cyclic CO₂ capture performance of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted/CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃

The oxy-fuel combustion is required for CO₂ enrichment in the calcination stage. Therefore, bi-functional materials need to be calcined under the severe condition (high CO₂ concentration and high temperature above 900 °C). Fig. 7 exhibits C_N of the microtubular Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ under the severe calcination condition over 20 CaL cycles. The CO₂ capture capacity of Fe₁₀Al₂CaO-T in the first cycle decreases as the Al content increases. This is because with increased Al addition, more CaO is consumed to form Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃, thereby reducing the CaO content in the microtubular Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃. However, compared with that of Fe₁₀Al₂CaO-T (z > 0), CO₂ capture capacity of Fe₁₀CaO-T shows a more rapid drop with the number of cycles. This result indicates that Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ as a stabilizer improves the sintering resistance of the bi-functional materials. As N increases from 1 to 20, C_N of Fe₁₀CaO-T, Fe₁₀Al₅CaO-T, Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₅CaO-T decrease by 72%, 35%, 19% and 15%, respectively. The high Al content is beneficial for the cyclic stability of the CO₂ capture capacity of

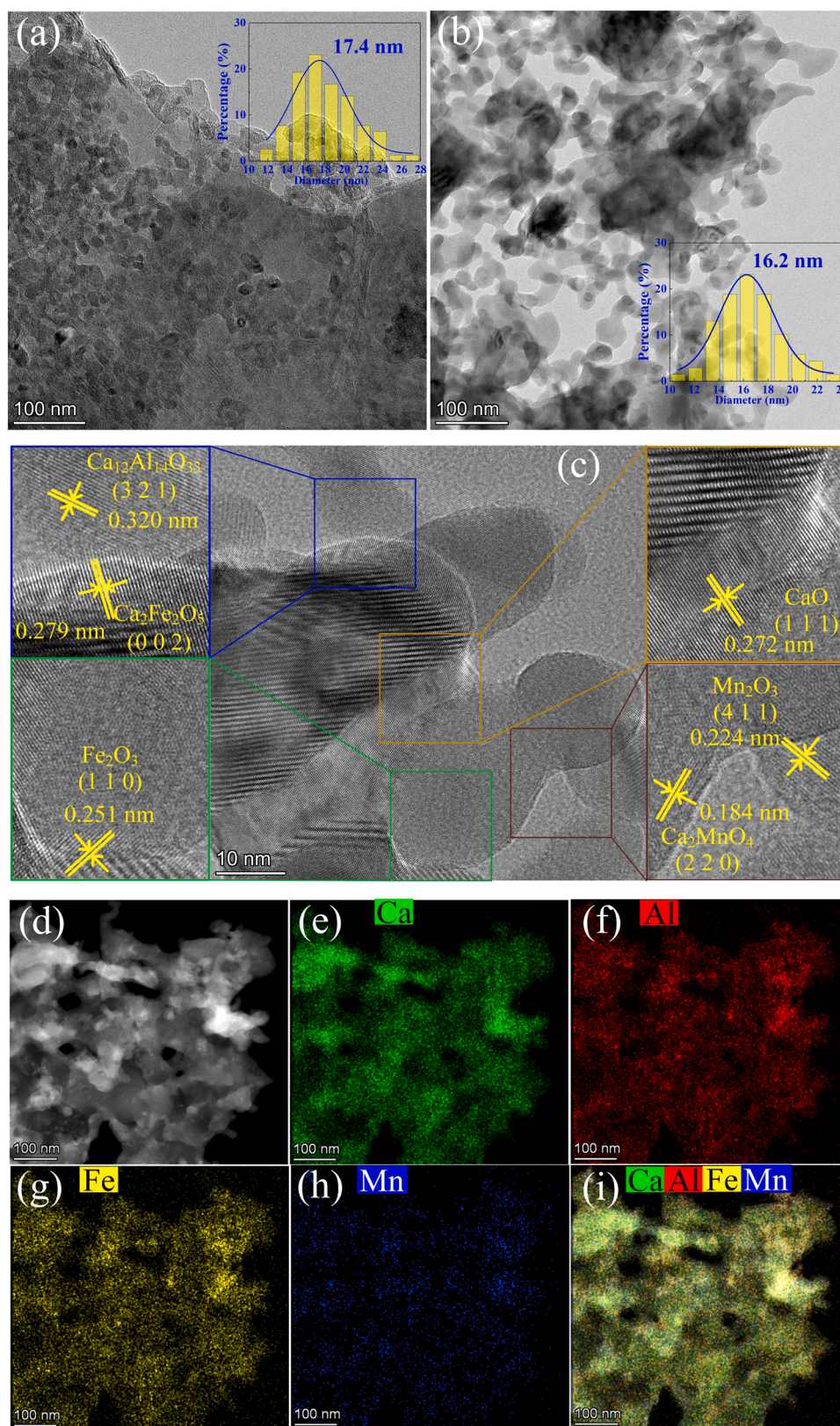


Fig. 6. TEM images of (a) Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and (b) Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, (c) HRTEM image of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, (d) HAADF-STEM image of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and (e-i) the corresponding EDS mappings of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T.

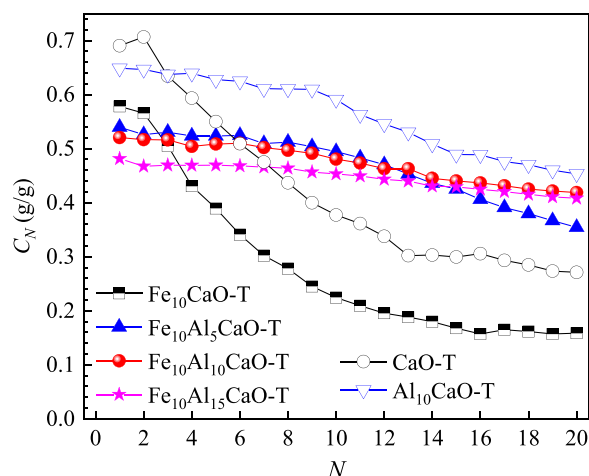


Fig. 7. CO₂ capture capacity of Fe₁₀Al₂CaO-T during 20 CaL cycles under severe calcination condition (carbonation: 15 vol% CO₂/30 vol% steam/N₂, 600 °C, 20 min; calcination: 70 vol% CO₂/N₂, 920 °C, 10 min).

the microtubular Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃. Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T possesses the highest C₂₀ among Fe₁₀Al₂CaO-T, which is 0.42 g/g. Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T shows lower C₁ than Al₁₀CaO-T, because Fe addition reduces the CaO content. However, the decay of C_N in Al₁₀CaO-T over 20 cycles is higher than that in Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits the better cyclic stability than Al₁₀CaO-T, probably because the oxygen mobility characteristics of brownmillerite-structured Ca₂Fe₂O₅ is formed by doping Fe into CaO [69]. The oxygen vacancies can enhance the diffusion of CO₂ through the CaCO₃ product layer by providing O²⁻ ions to produce CO₃²⁻ [70]. Therefore, the cyclic stability of the microtubular bi-functional material in CaL cycles is improved.

The effect of Mn addition on the cyclic CO₂ capture by Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ is investigated. C_N of the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ under the severe calcination condition is depicted in Fig. 8. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T possesses the higher cyclic stability than Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T under the severe calcination condition. However, the excess Mn reduces the CO₂ capture capacity of the microtubular bi-functional material, because Mn addition causes more consumption of the active CaO to form Ca₂MnO₄. Therefore, there is the optimum Ca/Mn ratio in the microtubular bi-functional material for cyclic CO₂ capture. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits the highest C₂₀ (0.43 g/g) among the different Fe₁₀Mn_yAl₁₀CaO-T under the severe calcination condition. The effect of Mn addition on the cyclic stability of

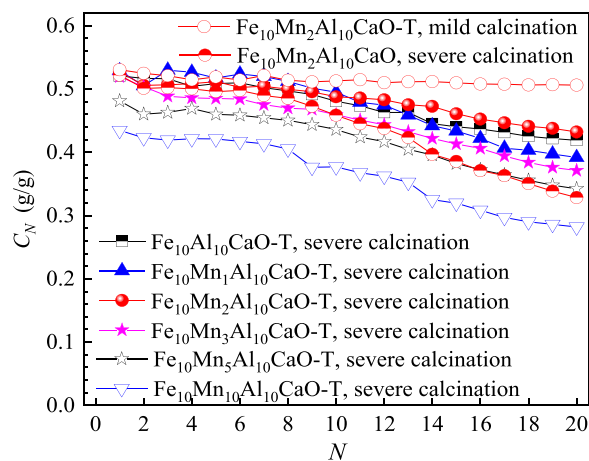


Fig. 8. CO₂ capture capacity of Fe₁₀Mn_yAl₁₀CaO-T during 20 CaL cycles (carbonation: 15 vol% CO₂/30 vol% steam/N₂, 600 °C, 20 min; calcination: 10 min).

Fe₁₀Mn_yAl₁₀CaO-T is probably attributed to improved electron transfer due to Mn [71]. The layered-perovskite-structured Ca₂MnO₄ can provide more oxygen vacancies, which enhances CO₂ diffusion in the carbonation reaction [56]. In addition, C_N of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T under the severe calcination (70% CO₂ and 920 °C) and mild calcination (pure N₂ and 850 °C) conditions are compared. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T under the mild calcination exhibits the better cyclic stability in 20 CaL cycles than under the severe calcination. C_N of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T under the mild calcination condition only drops by 5% with increasing N from 1 to 20. This result indicates that the bi-functional material under the severe calcination condition suffers from more serious sintering compared with the mild calcination condition. Moreover, Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T shows the significantly higher C_N than Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO. This result proves the superiority of the hollow microtubular structure for cyclic CO₂ capture.

3.3. SEWGS and WGS processes using Fe/Mn catalysts

Fig. 9 demonstrates the product profiles using Fe and Fe/Mn catalysts in WGS process. CH₄ is not detected in the product gas of the WGS reaction using Fe catalyst and Fe/Mn catalyst, indicating that the methanation reaction does not occur with Fe-based catalysts. Fe-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂-T both exhibit the stable performance within 120 min. Moreover, V_{H₂} for Fe₁₀Mn₂-T is higher than that for Fe-T, and V_{CO} for Fe₁₀Mn₂-T is lower. This indicates Fe/Mn catalyst exhibits the higher catalytic effect on WGS reaction than Fe catalyst.

The comparison in the performance of the different catalysts in the WGS process is shown in Fig. 10. X_{CO} at 400–700 °C using the prepared catalysts is illustrated in Fig. 10 (a). The equilibrium conversion of CO in the WGS reaction based on the minimization of the Gibbs free energy is also presented. The equilibrium conversion of CO decreases with increasing the temperature, because the WGS reaction is exothermic. The catalytic activities of the different catalysts increase as T rises from 400 to 500 °C, which is attributed to the increased reaction rate at higher WGS temperature. X_{CO} for Ni-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂-T start to decay with further increasing the temperatures above 500 and 600 °C, respectively. This is due to the limitation of thermodynamic equilibrium. Fe catalyst exhibits the lower catalytic effect than Ni catalyst on WGS reaction. However, Mn addition significantly enhances the catalytic activity of Fe-based catalyst. X_{CO} follows the order of Fe₁₀Mn₂-T > Ni-T > Fe-T at 400–700 °C. Fe₁₀Mn₂-T shows the highest X_{CO} of 89.6% at 600 °C, which is close to the equilibrium value (92.8%). Fig. 10 (b) presents the H₂ yield using the different catalysts. Y_{H₂} for Fe₁₀Mn₂-T and Fe-T are respectively equal to their X_{CO}, because only the WGS reaction occurs to produce H₂ and CO₂ without the by-product CH₄. Therefore, only X_{CO} is used and Y_{H₂} is no longer used to illustrate the WGS and SEWGS performance of Fe/Mn-promoted/CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ in the following discussion. However, Y_{H₂} for Ni-T is much lower than its X_{CO} due to the production of by-product CH₄ by the catalytic effect of Ni on the methanation reaction. Therefore, Fe/Mn catalyst is efficient for H₂ production in the WGS process.

Fig. 11 displays the SEWGS performance of Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T in terms of the concentrations of H₂, CO and CO₂ in the product gas in the first cycle. The SEWGS reaction using the bi-functional materials proceeds in three stages related to the carbonation reactivity of CaO, i.e., pre-breakthrough, breakthrough and post-breakthrough stages [19]. The pre-breakthrough period in the SEWGS reaction is related to the fast surface reaction-controlled stage of carbonation reaction of CaO. Obviously, CO₂ volume fraction remains at a low level in the pre-breakthrough stage. The pre-breakthrough period achieves high CO conversion and high-purity H₂, so a long duration of this period is highly desirable. The durations of the pre-breakthrough stage for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are 40 and 60 min, respectively. Moreover, V_{H₂} in the pre-breakthrough stage for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T in the first cycle is higher than that for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. As the carbonation of CaO begins to enter the slow product layer diffusion-controlled stage, the concentration of CO₂ in the off-gas starts

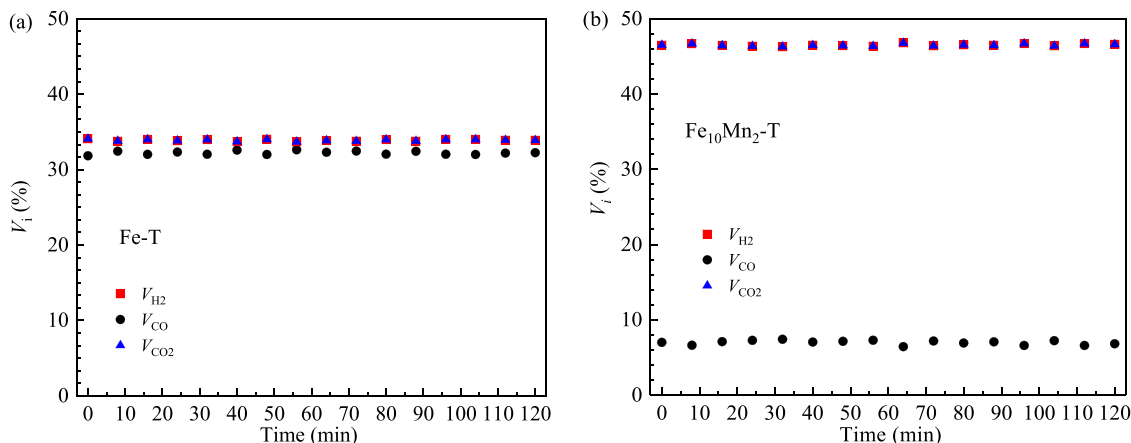


Fig. 9. Typical WGS product profiles over Fe/Mn catalysts: (a) Fe-T, (b) $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{-T}$ (600 °C, 4% CO, S/C = 6).

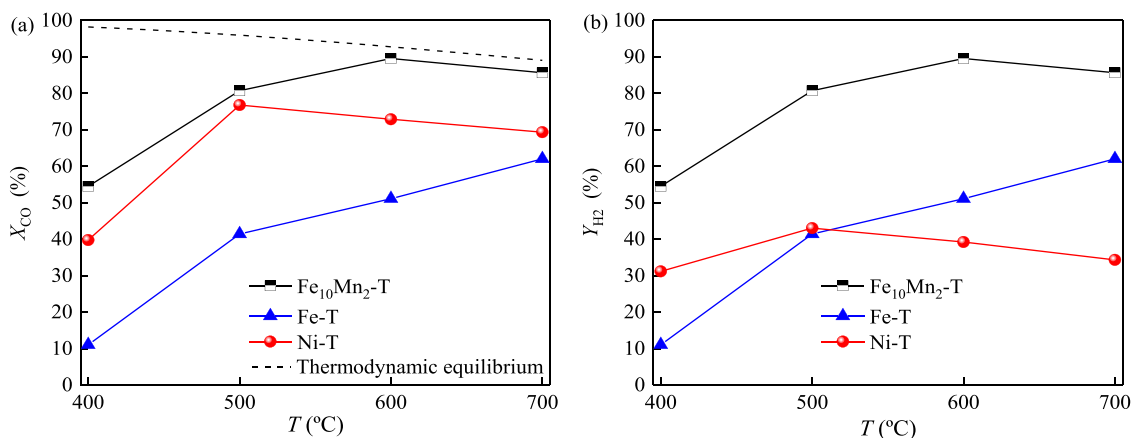


Fig. 10. CO conversion and H_2 yield for Fe/Mn catalysts in WGS reaction: (a) CO conversion, (b) H_2 yield (4% CO, S/C = 6).

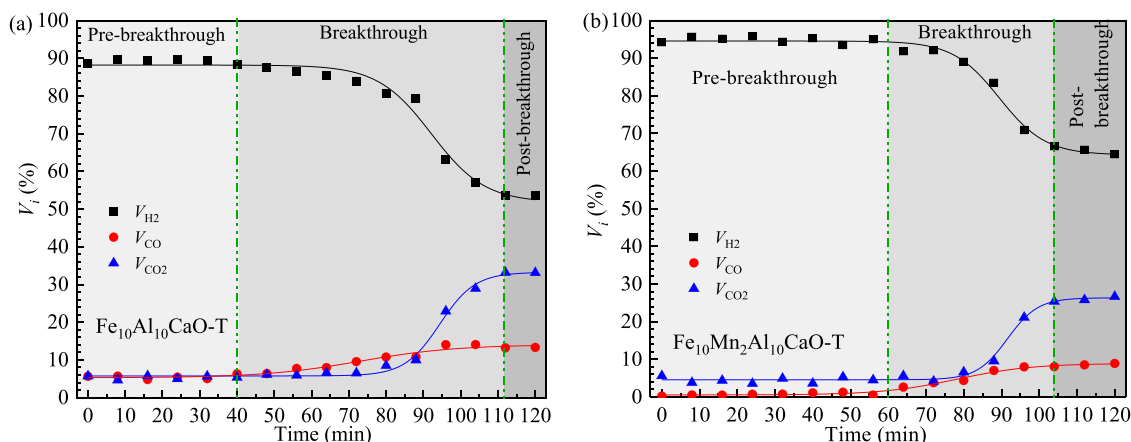


Fig. 11. Typical SEWGS product profiles in the first cycle using bi-functional materials: (a) $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$, (b) $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ (600 °C, 4% CO, S/C = 6).

to increase, indicating that the breakthrough stage of the SEWGS reaction occurs. During this stage, the H_2 purity and CO conversion decrease rapidly as the carbonation rate decays. When the carbonation reaction of the material is in the slow diffusion-controlled stage, the SEWGS reaction shifts to the post-breakthrough stage.

3.4. SEWGS performance of microtubular Fe-promoted/ $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ for H_2 production

Fig. 12 illustrates the effects of the reaction temperature, the volume ratio of S/C and the molar ratio of Ca/Fe on the SEWGS performance of the microtubular Fe-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ in the first cycle. The operation time for the SEWGS process is limited to 60 min. As the reaction temperature increases from 400 to 600 °C, X_{CO} increases significantly from 15.7% to 94.6% at the volume ratio of S/C = 6, as presented

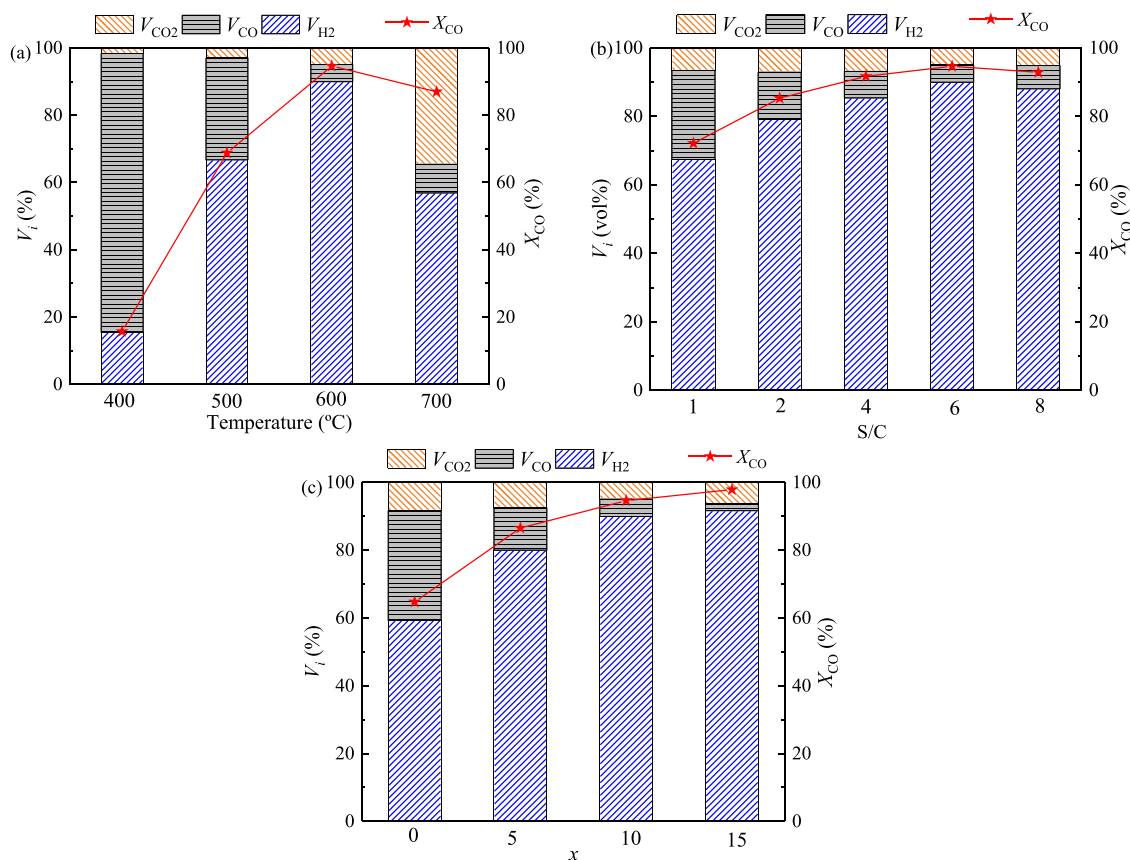


Fig. 12. Effects of temperature, volume ratio of S/C and molar ratio of Ca/Fe on SEWGS performance of microtubular Fe-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ in the first cycle: (a) temperature ($\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$, 4% CO , S/C = 6), (b) volume ratio of S/C ($\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$, 600 °C, 4% CO); (c) molar ratio of Ca/Fe (600 °C, 4% CO , S/C = 6).

in Fig. 12 (a). This is because the carbonation reaction rate is accelerated with increasing the temperature, leading to a high V_{H_2} of 90.0% at 600 °C. However, X_{CO} for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ drops rapidly as the temperature further increases to 700 °C, due to the thermodynamic limitation of the WGS reaction. Moreover, the exothermic carbonation reaction is also inhibited at higher temperature, which decreases the CO_2 capture capacity of the bi-functional material and results in reduced CO conversion. X_{CO} and V_{H_2} decrease to 87.0% and 56.9% at 700 °C, respectively. Furthermore, X_{CO} at 600 °C is improved with increasing the volume ratio S/C from 1 to 6, while it decreases as S/C further increases from 6 to 8, as exhibited in Fig. 12 (b). This is probably because the high volume fraction of steam in the SEWGS process inhibits the catalytic activity. In general, the optimum reaction temperature and volume ratio of S/C for SEWGS are 600 °C and 6, respectively, which are employed in the following research. The Ca/Fe molar ratio also shows an important effect on the SEWGS performance of $\text{Fe}_x\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$, as shown in Fig. 12 (c). Higher X_{CO} is achieved as x increases from 0 to 15. However, V_{CO_2} for $\text{Fe}_{15}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ is higher than that for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$. The higher Fe loading in $\text{Fe}_{15}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ leads to the formation of the more catalytic sites, but it decreases the active CaO content, which is not beneficial for CO_2 capture. The molar ratio of Ca/Fe = 100:10 is suitable for $\text{Fe}_x\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ to simultaneously achieve high X_{CO} and low V_{CO_2} . The higher CO conversion and CO_2 capture capacity lead to better SEWGS performance using $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$. Therefore, $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ possesses the highest H_2 production performance in the SEWGS process among the various Fe-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$.

Fig. 13 displays the SEWGS performance of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ in 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles under the severe calcination condition. The operation time for the SEWGS reaction is limited to 60 min. X_{CO} and V_{H_2} in the syngas for these materials decrease with the number of cycles. Meanwhile, V_{CO} and V_{CO_2} for the bi-functional materials increase with

the number of cycles. After 20 cycles, X_{CO} for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO}$ and $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ drop by 18.9% and 22.4%, respectively. $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exhibits the good SEWGS performance and the cyclic stability, achieving a high X_{CO} of 88.3% and V_{H_2} of 81.0% after 20 cycles. X_{CO} for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ decreases by only 6.7% over 20 cycles. This result indicates the high cyclic stability of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ is attributed to the synergetic effects of the hollow microtubular morphology and the support of $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$.

3.5. SEWGS performance of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ for H_2 production

The SEWGS performance of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_y\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ in the first cycle under the severe calcination condition is presented in Fig. 14. Compared with $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$, $\text{Mn}_y\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exhibits the lower CO conversion. For instance, X_{CO} for $\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ and $\text{Mn}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ are 90.4% and 93.2%, respectively. This indicates that the SEWGS performance of Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ is lower than that of Fe-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$. The bimetallic $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_y\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ possesses higher SEWGS performance than the monometallic $\text{Mn}_y\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ and $\text{Fe}_x\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$. $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exhibits the highest X_{CO} of 99.3%, highest V_{H_2} of 95.4% and lowest V_{CO_2} of 4.0%. This result indicates the remarkable synergetic effect of Fe/Mn in the SEWGS process. However, excessive Mn addition in $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_y\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ reduces X_{CO} and V_{H_2} . When y is above 2, X_{CO} of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_y\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ begins to decrease, and V_{CO_2} in the syngas increases. Therefore, $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ is optimal among the various microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ bi-functional materials to achieve the highest SEWGS performance.

The effect of the volume ratio of S/C on the SEWGS performance of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ is illustrated in Fig. 15. An increase in X_{CO} for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ is found with increasing the volume ratio of S/C from 1 to 6, while it decreases as the volume ratio of S/C further

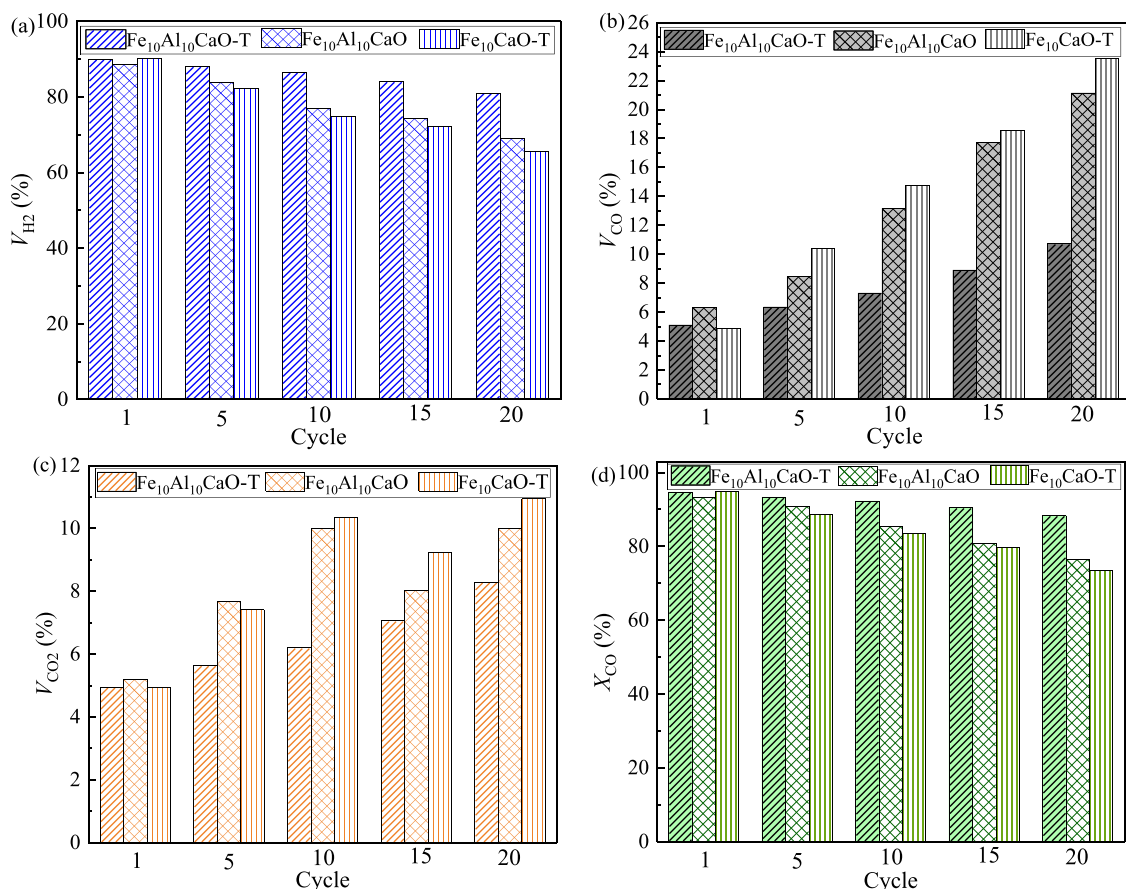


Fig. 13. SEWGS performance of Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ during 20 cycles under severe calcination condition: (a) V_{H_2} , (b) V_{CO} , (c) V_{CO_2} , (d) X_{CO} (600 °C, 4% CO, S/C = 6).

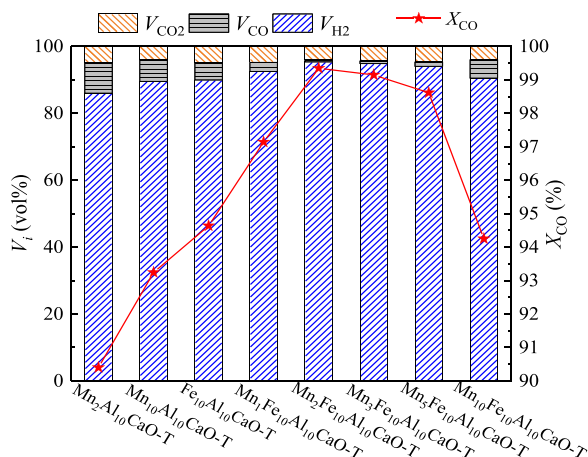


Fig. 14. Effect of Mn addition on SEWGS performance of microtubular Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ bi-functional materials in the first cycle (600 °C, 4% CO, S/C = 6).

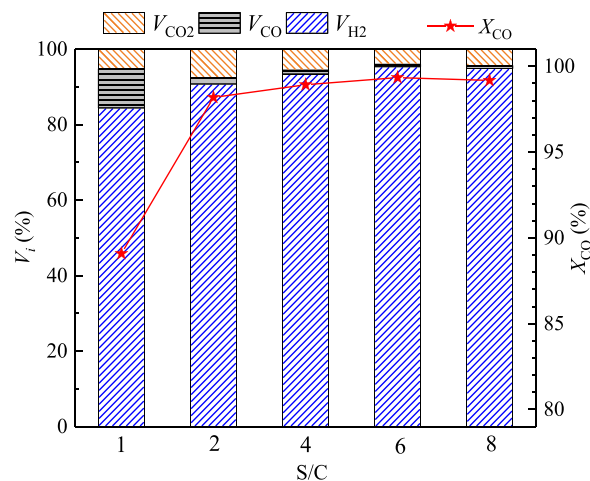


Fig. 15. Effect of volume ratio of S/C on SEWGS performance of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T in the first cycle (600 °C, 4% CO).

increases to 8. The optimal volume ratio of S/C for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T is 6, which is consistent with that for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. However, it is illustrated that Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T shows high SEWGS activity even at a relatively low volume ratio of S/C, which differs from Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T as shown in Fig. 12 (b). For instance, V_{H_2} for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T at the volume ratios of S/C = 2 and 4 are 79.2% and 85.4%, while these for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are 90.8% and 93.4%, respectively. X_{CO} for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T at the volume ratio of S/C = 2 is as high as 98.2%, which is 15.1% higher than that for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. Therefore, a low volume ratio of S/C

(e.g., 2) is appropriate for the SEWGS process using Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T.

Fig. 16 presents the CO conversion and product gas composition in 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles under the severe calcination condition using Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T. The SEWGS performance of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T decreases slightly with the number of cycles. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits a high X_{CO} of 94.0% after 20 cycles, which is 16% and 23% higher than those for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO and Fe₁₀Mn₂CaO-T, respectively. Compared with Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T (as exhibited in Fig. 13), Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T possesses the higher and more stable cyclic SEWGS performance.

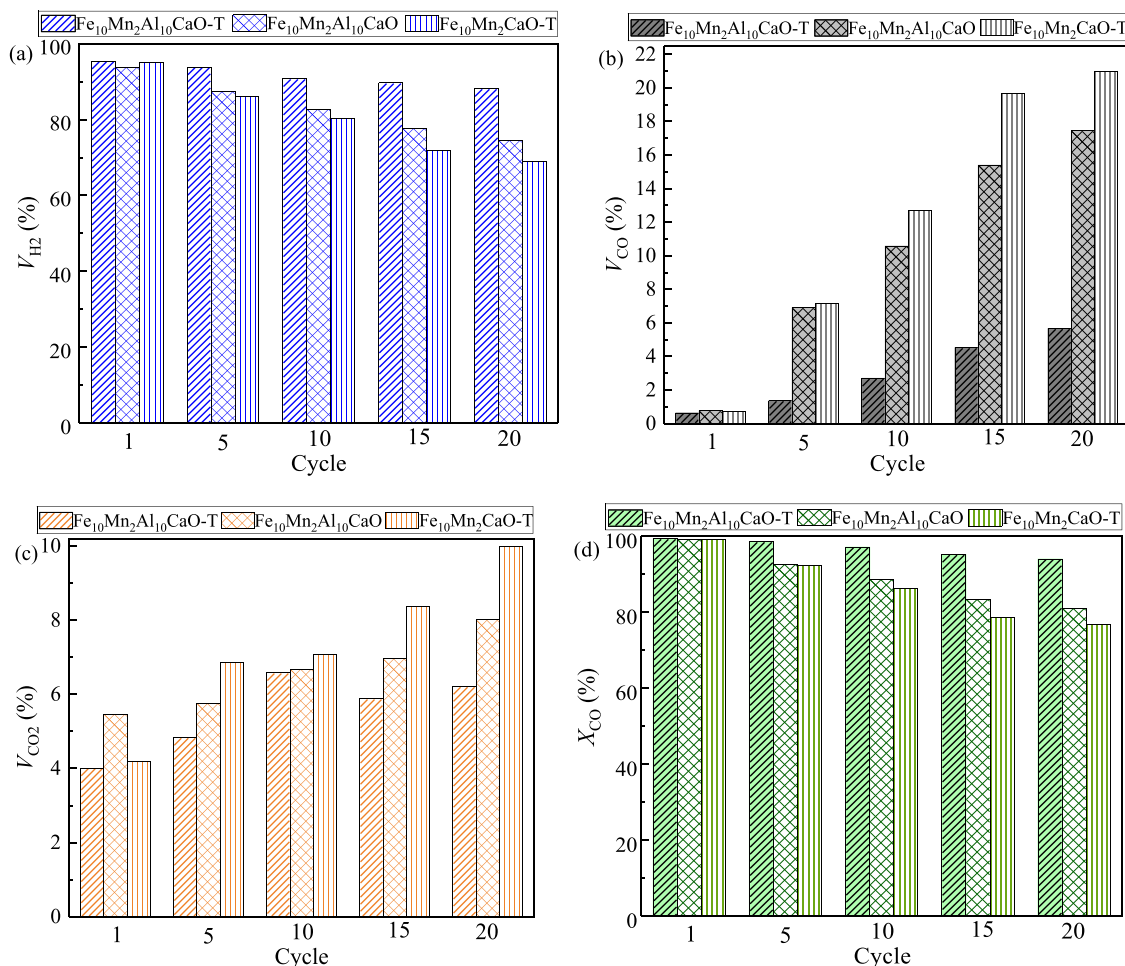


Fig. 16. SEWGS performance of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ bi-functional materials during 20 cycles under severe calcination condition: (a) V_{H_2} , (b) V_{CO} , (c) V_{CO_2} , (d) X_{CO} (600 °C, 4% CO, S/C = 6).

V_{H_2} , V_{CO} and V_{CO_2} for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ after 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles under the severe calcination condition are 88.1%, 5.7% and 6.2%, respectively. This is attributed to the addition of Mn, which simultaneously enhances the CO_2 capture performance and the catalytic activity for WGS reaction. The SEWGS performance of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ during 20 cycles under the mild calcination condition is also determined, as

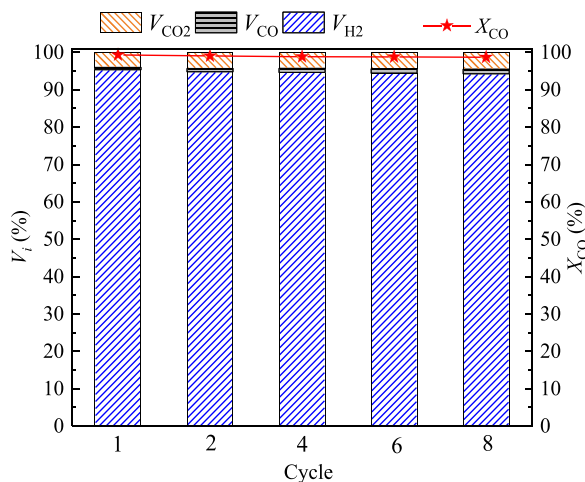


Fig. 17. SEWGS performance of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ during 20 cycles under mild calcination condition (600 °C, 4% CO, S/C = 6).

shown in Fig. 17. It is demonstrated that $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exhibits much stable cyclic SEWGS performance under the mild calcination condition. V_{H_2} and X_{CO} for $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ after 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles under the mild calcination condition are as high as 94.3% and 98.7%, respectively. Moreover, the enhanced H_2 production performance using $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ in this work and other bi-functional materials reported in the literature are compared, as listed in Table 3. Although a realistic comparison with the results from the references is difficult because the reaction conditions using the different bi-functional materials are quite different, it can be concluded that the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ exhibits the excellent performance in terms of CO_2 capture capacity and enhanced H_2 production activity in the cycles.

3.6. Physicochemical properties of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$

The CO_2 -TPD patterns of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ and $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ are shown in Fig. 18. $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exhibits a strong CO_2 desorption peak at 657 °C, which is attributed to the strong basic sites of CaO. It is found that the main CO_2 desorption peak of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ shifts toward a higher temperature at 676 °C and the peak intensity is improved. This result indicates $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ possesses the higher basicity than $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ due to the Mn addition. It has been reported that the enhancement of the basicity can improve the affinity of acidic CO_2 to promote the CO_2 capture capacity of the CaO-based material [73]. Therefore, $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exhibits the higher CO_2 capture capacity

Table 3

Comparison in H₂ production performance using Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and different bi-functional materials reported in references during sorption enhanced steam reforming processes for H₂ production.

Bi-functional material	Reagent	Reaction conditions (sorption enhanced H ₂ production; regeneration)	Cycles	Conversion of reagent (%)	H ₂ yield (%)	Sorption capacity (g-CO ₂ /g-sorbent)	Ref
Ni/CeO ₂ -ZrO ₂ -CaO	Acetic acid	550 °C, S/C= 4; 750 °C, 100% Ar	1/15	~94/~88	~80/~50	0.30/0.27	[72]
Ni-CaO-MgO	Glycerol	550 °C, S/C= 4; 800 °C, 100% N ₂	1/10	99.5/98.2	92.6/89.9	0.49/0.37	[43]
Ni-Ce/CaO-Ca ₃ Al ₂ O ₆	Glycerol	550 °C, S/C= 3; 800 °C, 100% Ar	1/10	~95/-	~84/~83	~0.41/~0.35	[49]
Ni-CaO-fly ash	Glycerol	550 °C, S/C= 3; 800 °C, 100% N ₂	1/20	–	~90/~90	0.58/0.45	[48]
Ni-CaO-Ca ₃ Al ₂ O ₆	CO	600 °C, S/C= 2; 800 °C, 100% N ₂	1/10	61.3/-	–	0.53/~0.51	[19]
Fe ₁₀ Mn ₂ Al ₁₀ CaO-T	CO	600 °C, S/C= 6; 920 °C, 70% CO ₂ /Ar	1/20	99.3/94.0	99.3/94.0	0.53/0.43	This work
Fe ₁₀ Mn ₂ Al ₁₀ CaO-T	CO	600 °C, S/C= 6; 850 °C, 100% Ar	1/20	99.3/98.7	99.3/98.7	0.53/0.51	This work

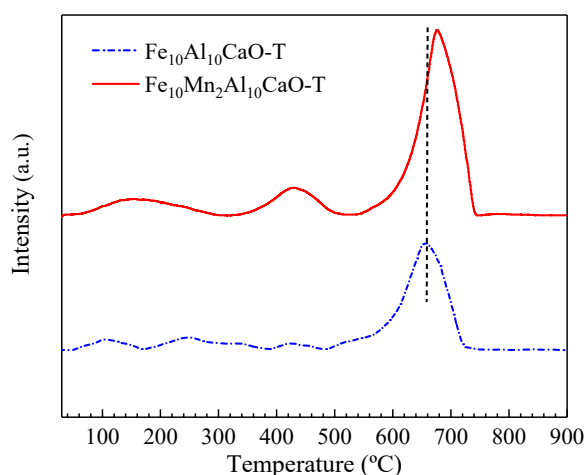


Fig. 18. CO₂-TPD patterns of Fe_xMn_yAl₁₀CaO-T.

than Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. As a result, H₂ production from SEWGS using the microtubular Fe-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ bi-functional material is also enhanced by the addition of Mn.

The H₂-TPR analysis results of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are illustrated in Fig. 19. There are three reduction peaks in the TPR curve of Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. Among them, the first peak located at 578 °C and the second at 712 °C are attributed to the consecutive reduction of Fe₂O₃ to Fe₃O₄ to FeO, respectively, which are also observed in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T. It has been proven that the

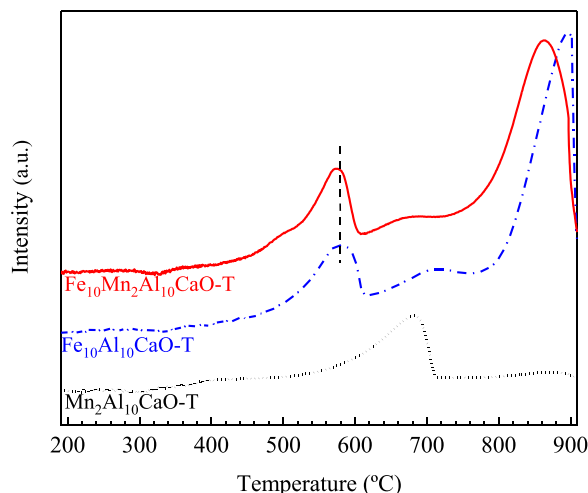


Fig. 19. H₂-TPR patterns of Fe_xMn_yAl₁₀CaO-T.

formation of Fe₃O₄ is responsible for the excellent catalytic performance during the WGS reaction, while the over-reduction of Fe₂O₃ to FeO or Fe⁰ decreases the CO conversion [74]. At the SEWGS temperature of 600 °C, the reduction of Fe₂O₃ to Fe₃O₄ occurs, while the reduction to FeO or Fe⁰ is limited for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, indicating the excellent catalytic activity in SEWGS. It is found that the two characteristic reduction peaks shift to the lower temperature for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, compared with those for Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. Moreover, a shoulder peak located at 492 °C is present for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T due to the interaction between Fe and Mn. These results indicate that the catalytic activity of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T based on the redox cycle of Fe³⁺/Fe^{3+, 2+} is improved by Mn addition. A strong reduction peak located at 800–900 °C is observed in the cases of Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T due to the reduction of the Ca₂Fe₂O₅ phase into Fe⁰. It has been proven that Ca₂Fe₂O₅ exhibits catalytic activity for the WGS reaction, which depends on the presence of oxygen vacancies in the Ca₂Fe₂O₅ structure [56]. The reduction temperature of Ca₂Fe₂O₅ is much higher than the operating temperature of the SEWGS reaction. This result illustrates that the Ca₂Fe₂O₅ phase keeps stable for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T in the SEWGS process. There is a reduction peak at above 600 °C in the H₂-TPR pattern of Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, which is related to the reduction of the Mn-containing phase. However, this peak is absent for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T due to the overlap with the reduction peak of the iron phase. Therefore, the WGS catalytic sites in Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are contributed by the Ca₂Fe₂O₅ phase and the redox cycle of Fe³⁺/Fe^{3+, 2+}. Mn addition improves the reducibility of Fe₂O₃ to Fe₃O₄, thereby promoting CO conversion to produce H₂ in the SEWGS process.

The O 1s XPS spectra of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T are illustrated in Fig. 20 (a). The O 1s XPS spectra of the two samples are deconvoluted into three peaks located at 532.1, 531.3 and 529.2 eV, which correspond to the surface adsorbed water species (O1), surface chemisorbed oxygen (O2) and lattice oxygen (O3), respectively [75,76]. The concentration of surface chemisorbed oxygen species is related to the surface oxygen vacancy [77]. Fig. 20 (b) demonstrates the concentrations of different oxygen species for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T. The results indicate that surface chemisorbed oxygen (O2) is the dominant oxygen species in the two samples. Moreover, O2 in the oxygen species of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T are 69.8% and 68.9%, respectively. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits higher O2 concentration than Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, indicating the better oxygen mobility due to Mn addition.

The O₂-TPD analyses of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T are conducted to further investigate the mobility of the surface oxygen species. According to the literature [77,78], the desorption capacities of oxygen species follow the order of O₂ (ads) > O₂⁻ (ads) > O²⁻ (latt), where O₂ (ads) represents the physical adsorption of O₂, O₂⁻ (ads) and O⁻ (ads) are the chemical adsorbed oxygen, and O²⁻ (latt) refers to lattice oxygen. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T show the similar desorption curves, as shown in Fig. 21. The weak peaks below 200 °C

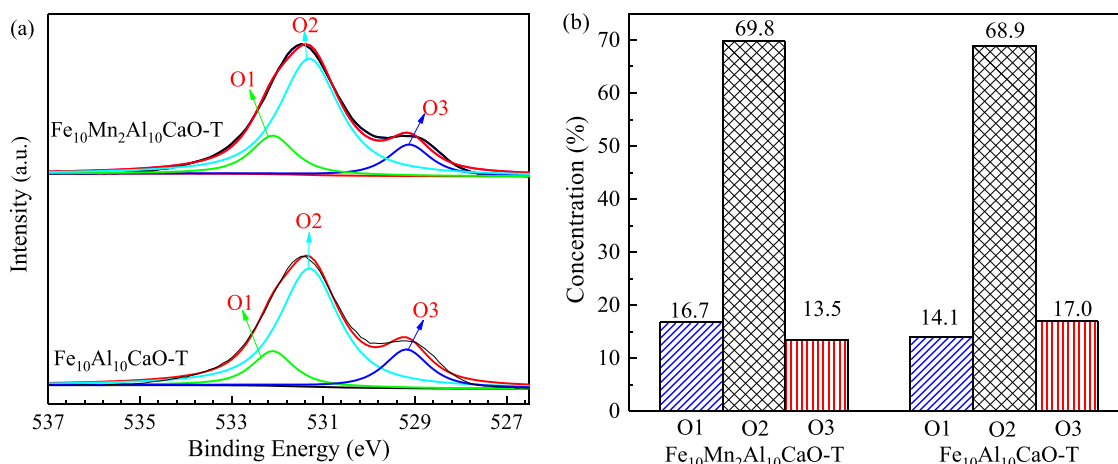


Fig. 20. XPS analyses of O 1s of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T: (a) O 1s XPS spectra, (b) concentrations of different oxygen species.

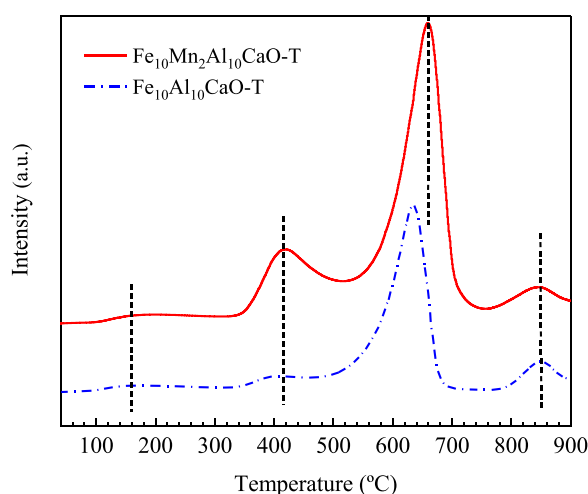


Fig. 21. O₂-TPD patterns of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T.

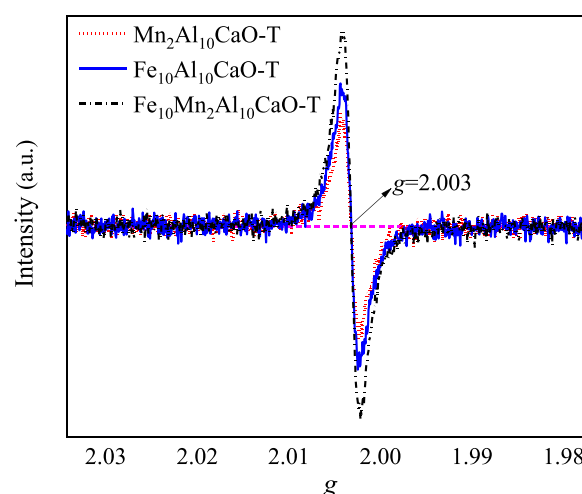


Fig. 22. EPR spectra of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T.

and above 700 °C are attributed to the desorption of O₂ and lattice oxygen, respectively. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits two main desorption peaks at 414 and 657 °C, which are associated with surface chemisorbed oxygen species (O₂⁻ and O⁻). Moreover, the areas of the two peaks for Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are larger compared with Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T, indicating the enhanced mobility of surface chemisorbed oxygen species due to Mn addition. This result also agrees with the result of XPS analysis.

The EPR analyses of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T, Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T are presented in Fig. 22. The signal at $g = 2.003$ is observed in the EPR spectra of all three microtubular materials, which is related to the formation of the oxygen vacancies [79,80]. However, the intensity of the signal at $g = 2.003$ in the different materials varies, in the order of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T > Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T > Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T. Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits the highest concentration of oxygen vacancy among these three materials. The results demonstrate that Mn addition increases the oxygen vacancies of the microtubular bi-functional materials. Increased oxygen vacancies can reduce the diffusion resistance of O²⁻, thus facilitating the catalytic activity of Ca₂Fe₂O₅ in the WGS reaction. Moreover, the diffusion of O²⁻ on the surface and bulk of the microtubular bi-functional material is favorable for the formation of intermediate CO₃²⁻, which is beneficial for CO₂ absorption by CaO. The improvement of oxygen vacancies contributes to the excellent SEWGS performance of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T.

3.7. Microstructural evolution of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ in cycles

The SEM images of Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T after 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles are exhibited in Fig. 23. Fe₁₀Al₁₀CaO-T and Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T maintain the hollow microtubular structure in the cycles, reflecting the stability of the unique structure prepared by bio-template method. Fig. 24 exhibits the morphologies of different Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ bi-functional materials fabricated by the bio-template and the wet-mixing methods after 20 cycles. It is observed that Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO suffers from the severe sintering experienced 20 cycles, which results in the obvious agglomeration of CaO grains. However, Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T exhibits more porous surface and possesses smaller CaO grains than Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO after 20 cycles. This is because the hollow microtubular structure can mitigate the influence of volumetric change in CaO/CaCO₃ during the cycles, thereby restricting grain growth and agglomeration. Therefore, the hollow microtubular Fe₁₀Mn₂Al₁₀CaO-T possesses the high sintering resistance, which promotes the CO₂ capture and SEWGS performance as well as the cyclic stability.

3.8. Reaction mechanism over microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted CaO-Ca₁₂Al₁₄O₃₃ in SEWGS process

The excellent H₂ production performance over the microtubular Fe/

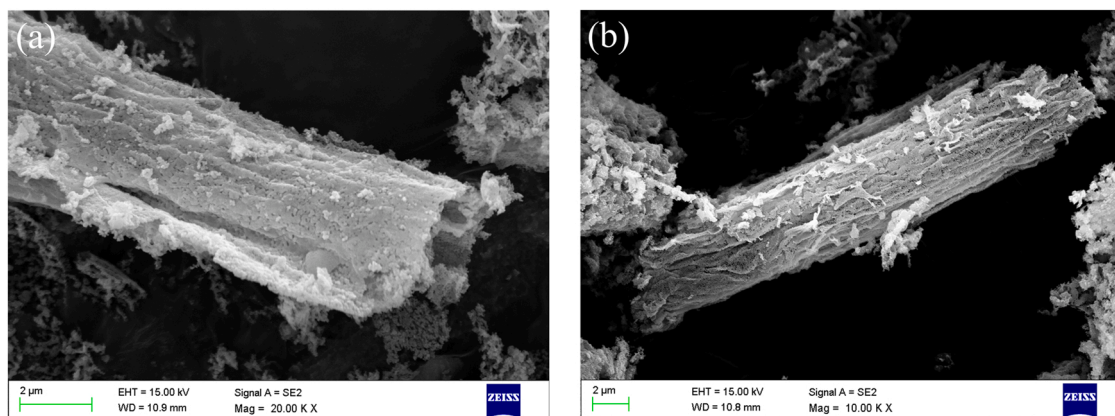


Fig. 23. SEM images of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ (a) and $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ (b) after 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles.

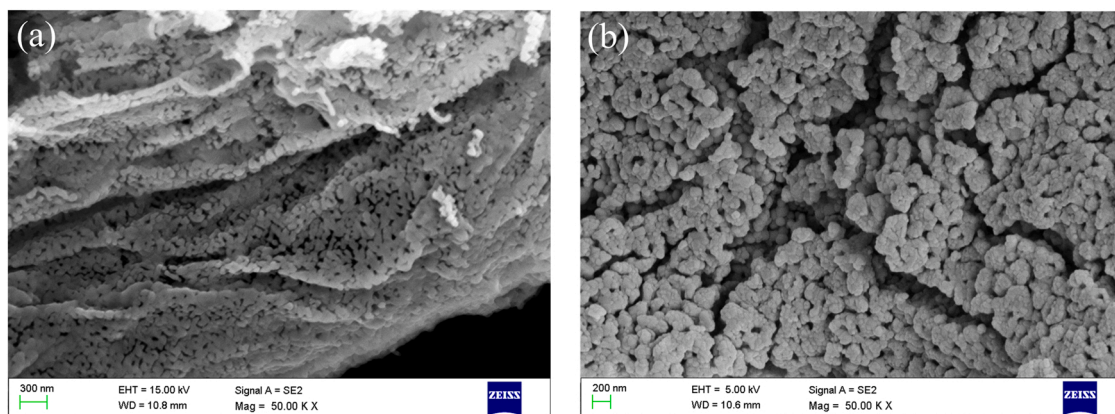


Fig. 24. High-magnification SEM images of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ (a) and $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO}$ (b) after 20 SEWGS/regeneration cycles.

Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ in the SEWGS process is attributed to the synergetic effects of the porous hollow structure and the efficient activity of Fe/Mn catalyst for WGS reaction, as shown in Fig. 25. The porous hollow microtubular structure of $\text{Fe}_{10}\text{Mn}_2\text{Al}_{10}\text{CaO-T}$ exposes the outer and inner surfaces, increasing the available CO_2 adsorption and catalytic sites and reducing the resistance of gas diffusion, which is beneficial to the WGS and carbonation reactions. The activity of Fe-based catalyst in the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ for WGS is significantly improved by Mn addition due to the improved redox ability and the increased oxygen vacancies. The interaction of Fe-Mn allows the electron transfer from Mn to Fe, facilitating the $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$ redox ability to catalyze the WGS reaction. The layered-

perovskite-structured Ca_2MnO_4 contributes to more oxygen vacancies, which is favorable for the diffusion of O^{2-} in the WGS reaction to produce H_2 . Moreover, the CO_2 affinity of the bi-functional material is promoted by Mn addition due to the improved basicity. This is beneficial to the in-situ CO_2 capture in the SEWGS process, thereby promoting H_2 production. The porous microtubular structure remains stable due to the support of $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$. Therefore, the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ exhibits the excellent H_2 production performance and high cyclic stability during the SEWGS/regeneration cycles.

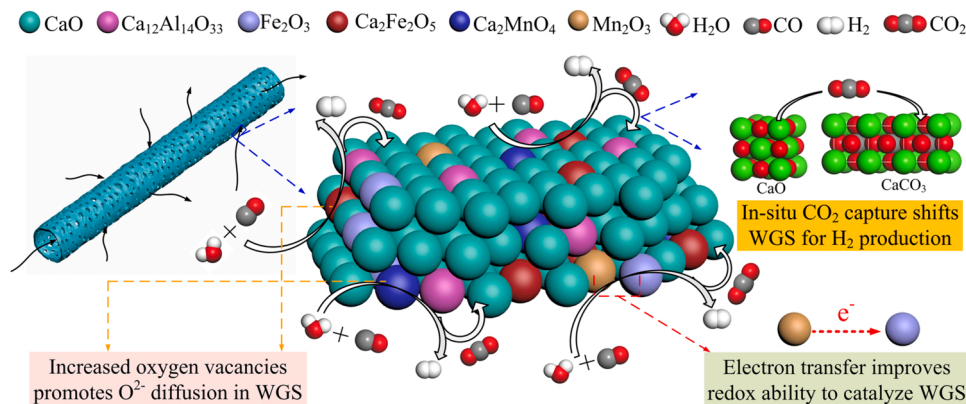


Fig. 25. Mechanism diagram of microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ in SEWGS process.

4. Conclusions

A hollow microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ was fabricated by the bio-template method and evaluated for H_2 production in SEWGS/regeneration cycles. The experiments were carried out under the optimized SEWGS condition at 600 °C with the S/C volume ratio of 6 and under the severe calcination condition. The hollow microtubular structure exposes more available catalytic sites and adsorption sites for the WGS and carbonation reactions, respectively. The hollow microtubular structure of Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ remains stable as a result of the support of $\text{Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$, resulting in excellent cyclic stability during the repeated SEWGS/regeneration cycles. The synergistic effect of Fe/Mn in the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ promotes SEWGS for H_2 production. The interaction of Fe-Mn in the microtubular bi-functional material facilitates the $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\text{Fe}^{2+}$ redox ability to improve the WGS reaction. Mn addition increases the basicity of the microtubular bi-functional material, improving the affinity for CO_2 . Moreover, the concentration of oxygen vacancies is increased by adding Fe and Mn to form $\text{Ca}_2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_5$ and Ca_2MnO_4 , which is beneficial to the WGS reaction and the CO_2 capture. The microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ exhibits excellent SEWGS performance and very high cyclic stability in the SEWGS/regeneration cycles, which is attributed to the synergetic effects of the porous hollow microtubular structure and the addition of Fe/Mn. At the optimal Fe/Mn/Al/Ca molar ratio of 10/2/10/100, the CO conversion, H_2 concentration and CO_2 concentration in the first cycle using the microtubular bi-functional material are 99.3%, 95.4% and 4.0%, respectively. In addition, CO conversions retain 98.7% and 94.0% after 20 cycles under the mild and severe calcination conditions, respectively. Overall, the microtubular Fe/Mn-promoted $\text{CaO-Ca}_{12}\text{Al}_{14}\text{O}_{33}$ seems promising for application in H_2 production via SEWGS/regeneration cycles.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Chunxiao Zhang: Data curation, Investigation, Visualization, Writing – original draft. **Yingjie Li:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Funding acquisition, Supervision, Writing – review & editing. **Zirui He:** Investigation. **Jianli Zhao:** Validation. **Dong Wang:** Investigation.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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